

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : William L. Thomas et al.
Application No. : 09/829,806 Confirmation No. : 9835
Filed : April 10, 2001
For : INTERACTIVE MEDIA GUIDE WITH MEDIA
GUIDANCE INTERFACE
Art Unit : 2424
Examiner : Annan Q. Shang

New York, New York 10036
March 1, 2010

Mail Stop Appeal Briefs -
Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

Sir:

Appellants are filing this Appeal Brief in support of their appeal from the final rejection of claims 84-101, 103-104, 106-126, 128-129, 131-151, 153-154, 156-176, 178-179, and 181-183 in the final Office Action dated March 4, 2009 ("Final Office Action"). A Notice of Appeal for this case was filed on August 31, 2009.

In view of the arguments and authorities set forth below, the Board should find the rejection of claims 84-101, 103-104, 106-126, 128-129, 131-151, 153-154, 156-176, 178-179,

and 181-183 to be in error, and the Board should reverse the rejection.

(i) Real Party in Interest

Appellants respectfully advise the Board that the real party in interest in the above-identified patent application is United Video Properties, Inc., a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, and having an office and place of business at 6922 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90028, which is the assignee of this application.

(ii) Related Appeals and Interferences

Appellants respectfully advise the Board that there are no other appeals or interferences known to appellants, their legal representative, or their assignee that will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(iii) Status of Claims

Claims 1-83, 102, 105, 127, 130, 152, 155, 177 and 180 have been canceled. Claims 84-101, 103-104, 106-126, 128-129, 131-151, 153-154, 156-176, 178-179, and 181-183 are pending, finally rejected in this application, and are on appeal.

(iv) Status of Amendments

Appellants have not submitted any amendments pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 or in reply to the Final Office Action, from which this appeal is being sought.

(v) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Appellants' independent claim 84 relates to a method for allowing a user of an interactive media guide to

access media provided by media sources. Elements of claim 84 include providing media group options and media sub-group options associated with at least some of the media group options. The media group options and at least some of the media sub-group options indicate media available to the user without indicating the content of the media, without indicating the title of the media, and without indicating the source of the media. The media indicators are provided in response to the user selecting one of the media sub-group options. The media indicators are associated with the selected media sub-group option, the media indicators identify media provided by at least one of the media sources, and the media indicators include a first media indicator for scheduled media and a second media indicator for unscheduled media. The unscheduled media includes media that is not provided at a scheduled time and is available for viewing at a time selected by the user. In response to the user selecting the media indicator, an action associated with a media indicator is performed. See, e.g., specification, page 3, line 18 to page 5, line 4, page 30, line 4 to page 34, line 9, page 36, line 3 to page 39, line 8, and FIGS. 5C, 6, 7A-B and 9A-C.

Appellants' independent claim 109 relates to a system for allowing a user to access media provided by media sources that includes means for providing media group options and media sub-group options associated with at least some of the media group options. The media group options and at least some of the media sub-group options indicate media available to the user without indicating the content of the media, without indicating the title of the media, and without indicating the source of the media. There are also means for providing media indicators in response to the user selecting one of the media sub-group

options. The media indicators are associated with the selected media sub-group option, the media indicators identify media provided by at least one of the media sources, and the media indicators include a first media indicator for scheduled media and a second media indicator for unscheduled media. Unscheduled media includes media that is not provided at a scheduled time and is available for viewing at a time selected by the user. There are also means for performing an action associated with a media indicator in response to the user selecting the media indicator. See, e.g., specification, page 3, line 18 to page 5, line 4, page 30, line 4 to page 34, line 9, page 36, line 3 to page 39, line 8, and FIGS. 5C, 6, 7A-B and 9A-C.

Appellants' independent claim 134 relates to a system including user equipment to access media provided by media sources. The system includes user equipment on which the interactive media guide is at least partially implemented, and which is configured to provide media group options and media sub-group options associated with at least some of the media group options. The media group options and at least some of the media sub-group options indicate media available to the user without indicating the content of the media, without indicating the title of the media, and without indicating the source of the media. The user equipment is also configured to provide media indicators in response to the user selecting one of the media sub-group options. The media indicators are associated with the selected media sub-group option, the media indicators identify media provided by at least one of the media sources, and the media indicators include a first media indicator for scheduled media and a second media indicator for unscheduled media. The unscheduled media includes media that is not provided at a scheduled time and is available for viewing at a time selected

by the user. The user equipment is also configured to perform an action associated with a media indicator in response to the user selecting the media indicator. See, e.g., specification, page 3, line 18 to page 5, line 4, page 30, line 4 to page 34, line 9, page 36, line 3 to page 39, line 8, and FIGS. 5C, 6, 7A-B and 9A-C.

Appellants' independent claim 159 relates to a computer readable medium for allowing a user of an interactive media guide to access media provided by media sources, which has machine program logic recorded thereon for providing media group options and media sub-group options associated with at least some of the media group options. The media group options and at least some of the media sub-group options indicate media available to the user without indicating the content of the media, without indicating the title of the media, and without indicating the source of the media. The machine program logic is also for providing media indicators in response to the user selecting one of the media sub-group options. The media indicators are associated with the selected media sub-group option, the media indicators identify media provided by at least one of the media sources, and the media indicators include a first media indicator for scheduled media and a second media indicator for unscheduled media. The unscheduled media includes media that is not provided at a scheduled time and is available for viewing at a time selected by the user. The machine program logic is also for performing an action associated with a media indicator in response to the user selecting the media indicator. See, e.g., specification, page 3, line 18 to page 5, line 4, page 30, line 4 to page 34, line 9, page 36, line 3 to page 39, line 8, and FIGS. 5C, 6, 7A-B and 9A-C.

(vi) Ground of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The ground of rejection to be reviewed on this appeal is whether the rejection of claims 84-90, 93-115, 118-140, 143-165, and 168-183 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,684,400 ("Goode") is proper.

(vii) Arguments

A. The requirements for a *prima facie* obviousness rejection have not been met

To establish *prima facie* obviousness, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970). "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art."

B. Goode does not disclose all of the elements of independent claims 84, 109, 134, and 159

The present invention, as defined by independent claims 84, 109, 134, and 159, relates to a method, systems, and a machine-readable medium for allowing a user of an interactive media guide to access media provided by media sources. The elements recited in the independent claims include, *inter alia*, the following:

- providing *media group options and media sub-group options* associated with at least some of the media group options, wherein the media group options and at least some of the media sub-group options indicate media available to the user without indicating the content of the media, without indicating the title of the media, and without indicating the source of the media;
- providing media indicators in response to the user selecting one of the media sub-group options, wherein... the media indicators include a *first media indicator for scheduled media* and a *second media indicator for unscheduled media*, wherein the unscheduled media includes

media that is not provided at a scheduled time and is available for viewing at a time selected by the user.

These elements of the independent claims require providing several specific items - media group options and media sub-group options that are associated with at least some of the media group options. Also provided are first and second media indicators for scheduled media and unscheduled media, respectively. Appellants respectfully submit that at least these above-mentioned items are not taught by Goode, therefore, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established.

As appellants described in the application specification, one of the innovations of the present application was an improvement in browsing technology for an interactive media guide so that the user may be provided with a user friendly interface for accessing related media that is grouped into related categories that may be further divided into sub-groups of media and provided using different media indicators for items that are scheduled and unscheduled. (See, e.g., specification, pages 3-5, 36-39). Such a configuration may improve ease of navigation of media items by grouping associated sub-groups of content, and providing a user with an indication of whether the media item is available by schedule, or unscheduled, e.g., by subscription or on-demand.

The Final Office Action at pages 3 and 5 explicitly acknowledges that "Goode silent [*sic*] as to, providing media sub-group option(s) as claimed." (Final Office Action, pages 3 and 5.) However, the Final Office Action incongruously continues by stating that: "Goode teaches providing a plurality of media group options (Service 1-3) and a media sub-group option." (Final Office Action, page 5.) This statement is not accompanied by any citations of any media sub-group option

taught by Goode. In another section on page 4 of the Final Office Action the Examiner suggests that media sub-group options are taught by the SOD service section of Goode's FIG. 4. Appellants respectfully disagree.

Goode teaches an interactive information distribution system that packages certain SOD services. Goode is directed to "providing subscription-on-demand (SOD) services for a[n] interactive information distribution system, where a consumer may subscribe to packages of on-demand programs for a single price and view the programs in the subscribed package at any time for no additional cost." (Goode, Abstract).

FIG. 4 of Goode shows a pie-shaped menu 400 that permits selection of various on-demand services using any one of the "pie" sections 402, 404, 406, or 408. (Goode, col. 8, lines 46-52). These on-demand services 402, 404, 406, and 408 are all described as being the same level of on demand service in a service hierarchy. In particular, each of the on-demand services, Services 1-3 and SOD Service, is described in Goode as being one of the SOD services options that are presented to a subscriber. (Goode, col. 8, lines 46-52). As such, each of the Services 1-3 and SOD Service are comparable packages of services, such as OnSet Kids (FIG. 5). Even if Services 1-3 and SOD Service were not considered to be comparable types or options of service, there is no indication that any one of them is associated in any way with any of the other SOD service options. Thus, the services provided by Goode can not equate to both media groups options and media sub-group options associated some of the media group options, as recited in the independent claims of the present invention.

The independent claims 84, 109, 134 and 159 of the present invention require "*media sub-group options* associated with at least some of the media group options." Even if Goode's

SOD Service could be considered a media sub-group option, as alleged in the Final Office Action at page 4, but which is not conceded by appellants, there is no association between Goode's SOD Service and any other media group option in Goode. Thus, appellants submit that Goode fails to teach the media sub-group option as recited in the independent claims 84, 109, 134, and 159.

Further distinguishing the independent claims 84, 109, 134, and 159 of the present invention from Goode are the recited first and second media indicators. Each of the independent claims recite that "media indicators include a first media indicator for scheduled media and a second media indicator for unscheduled media." The Final Office Action at pages 4-5 states that the media indicators are taught by Goode at col. 8, line 57 to col. 9, line 65. Appellants respectfully disagree. Goode teaches providing on-demand programming only. There are no indicators of scheduled or unscheduled media in Goode. While Goode mentions that subscription services may be limited to a restricted time window (e.g., from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M.), these times do not indicate that any programming is scheduled. Rather, the programming for such a restricted service is available on-demand for free during the time window and is available for a fee outside of the time window (see Goode, col. 9, lines 41-53). In addition, such programming is not indicated using first and second media indicators for scheduled and unscheduled media, respectively. Accordingly, there is no discussion in the entire Goode reference of providing any programs at scheduled times. This is consistent with Goode's device that only provides on-demand content. Since there are no scheduled programs, Goode does not disclose indicators designating either of scheduled or unscheduled content. Thus, there is no disclosure in Goode of providing a first media

indicator for scheduled media and a second media indicator for unscheduled media as recited in independent claims 84, 109, 134, and 159.

For at least the foregoing reasons, appellants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of independent claims 84, 109, 134, and 159 over Goode is improper. Accordingly, appellants respectfully request that the Examiner's rejection of claims 84, 109, 134, and 159 be withdrawn.

C. The dependent claims are patentable for at least the reasons that the independent claims are patentable

Since each of the dependent claims 85-108, 110-133, 135-158, and 160-183 include all of the elements of claims 84, 109, 134, and 159, the dependent claims are also allowable over Goode, for at least the reasons discussed above in reference to claims 84, 109, 134, and 159. Appellants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 85-108, 110-133, 135-158, and 160-183 also be withdrawn.

D. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, appellants submit that Goode, alone or in combination with Hendricks, does not render unpatentable any of appellants' claims 84-101, 103-104, 106-126, 128-129, 131-151, 153-154, 156-176, 178-179, and 181-183. The Final Office Action's rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should therefore be reversed.

This Brief has the following appendices:

(viii) Claims Appendix

Appendix A: Copy of claims 84-101, 103-104, 106-126, 128-129, 131-151, 153-154, 156-176, 178-179, and 181-183 involved in this appeal.

(ix) Evidence Appendices

None.

(x) Related Proceedings Appendix

None.

Should any fees be due in connection with this Appeal Brief, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of the same, to Deposit Account No. 06-1075.

Respectfully submitted,

/Pristine Johannessen/

Pristine Johannessen

Registration No. 55,302

Attorney for Appellants

Ropes & Gray LLP

Customer No. 75563

1211 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036

Tel.: (212) 596-9000

Claims Appendix

1-83. (Canceled)

84. A method for allowing a user of an interactive media guide to access media provided by media sources, the method comprising:

- providing media group options and media sub-group options associated with at least some of the media group options, wherein the media group options and at least some of the media sub-group options indicate media available to the user without indicating the content of the media, without indicating the title of the media, and without indicating the source of the media;

- providing media indicators in response to the user selecting one of the media sub-group options, wherein:

- the media indicators are associated with the selected media sub-group option,

- the media indicators identify media provided by at least one of the media sources, and

- the media indicators include a first media indicator for scheduled media and a second media indicator for unscheduled media, wherein the unscheduled media includes media that is not provided at a scheduled time and is available for viewing at a time selected by the user; and

- performing an action associated with a media indicator in response to the user selecting the media indicator.

85. The method of claim 84, wherein the action comprises providing media that is identified by the

selected media indicator in response to the user selecting the media indicator.

86. The method of claim 84, further comprising indicating the number of presently available media that are associated with a media group option.

87. The method of claim 84, wherein the media group options are defined by the user.

88. The method of claim 87, wherein the user-defined media group options comprise media indicators that meet user-defined criteria.

89. The method of claim 88, wherein the user-defined criteria is a user-defined search.

90. The method of claim 84, wherein the media group options comprise at least one of a recent favorites media group option, an old favorites media group option, a recommendations media group option, a browsing media group option, a special interest media group option, a categories media group option, or a preview scan media group option.

91. The method of claim 90, further comprising:
providing media indicators that are
editorially recommended in response to the user selecting the recommendations media group option.

92. The method of claim 90, further comprising:

providing promotional media indicators in response to the user selecting the recommendations media group option.

93. The method of claim 90, wherein media indicators are associated with the browsing media group option and are presented in response to the user selecting the browsing media group option, the method further comprising:

displaying in a video window video content corresponding to the selected media indicator associated with the browsing media group option in response to the user selecting one of the media indicators associated with the browsing media group option.

94. The method of claim 93, wherein the video content is currently available media content.

95. The method of claim 93, wherein the video content is a video clip.

96. The method of claim 93, wherein the video content is a video trailer.

97. The method of claim 90, further comprising:
displaying media sub-group options associated with the categories media group option in response to the user selecting the categories media group option; and

displaying the media indicators in response to the user selecting one of the media sub-group options,

wherein the media indicators are associated with the selected media sub-group option.

98. The method of claim 97, further comprising:
indicating the number of media indicators that are associated with each of the media sub-group options.

99. The method of claim 97, wherein the media sub-group options comprise a sports sub-group option, a popular shows sub-group option, a premiers sub-group option, and a group sub-group option.

100. The method of claim 90, further comprising:
displaying media indicators in response to the user selecting the preview scan media group option, wherein the media indicators are associated with the preview scan media group option; and

displaying in a video window video content corresponding to a selected media indicator in response to the user selecting one of the media indicators associated with the preview scan media group option.

101. The method of claim 84, wherein performing an action comprises obtaining media from a local file server, a remote file server, a pre-recorded videotape, a television station or an audio station.

102. (Canceled)

103. The method of claim 84, wherein each media sub-group option indicates the number of available media

indicators that are associated with each media sub-group option.

104. The method of claim 84, wherein at least some of the media sub-group options indicate presently available media by indicating the content, title, or source of the media.

105. (Canceled)

106. The method of claim 84, wherein the media sub-group options are displayed according to user preferences.

107. The method of claim 84, wherein the media sub-group options are displayed according to criteria defined by a remote service.

108. The method of claim 84, wherein the media sub-group options are created dynamically.

109. An interactive media guide system for allowing a user to access media provided by media sources, the system comprising:

means for providing media group options and media sub-group options associated with at least some of the media group options, wherein the media group options and at least some of the media sub-group options indicate media available to the user without indicating the content of the media, without indicating the title of the media, and without indicating the source of the media;

means for providing media indicators in response to the user selecting one of the media sub-group options, wherein:

the media indicators are associated with the selected media sub-group option,

the media indicators identify media provided by at least one of the media sources, and

the media indicators include a first media indicator for scheduled media and a second media indicator for unscheduled media, wherein the unscheduled media includes media that is not provided at a scheduled time and is available for viewing at a time selected by the user; and

means for performing an action associated with a media indicator in response to the user selecting the media indicator.

110. The system of claim 109, wherein the action comprises providing media that is identified by the selected media indicator in response to the user selecting the media indicator.

111. The system of claim 109, further comprising indicating the number of presently available media that are associated with a media group option.

112. The system of claim 109, wherein the media group options are defined by the user.

113. The system of claim 112, wherein the user-defined media group options comprise media indicators that meet user-defined criteria.

114. The system of claim 113, wherein the user-defined criteria is a user-defined search.

115. The system of claim 109, wherein the media group options comprise at least one of a recent favorites media group option, an old favorites media group option, a recommendations media group option, a browsing media group option, a special interest media group option, a categories media group option, or a preview scan media group option.

116. The system of claim 115, further comprising:

means for providing media indicators that are editorially recommended in response to the user selecting the recommendations media group option.

117. The system of claim 115, further comprising:

means for providing promotional media indicators in response to the user selecting the recommendations media group option.

118. The system of claim 115, wherein media indicators are associated with the browsing media group option and are presented in response to the user selecting the browsing media group option, the system further comprising:

means for displaying in a video window video content corresponding to the selected media indicator associated with the browsing media group option in response

to the user selecting one of the media indicators associated with the browsing media group option.

119. The system of claim 118, wherein the video content is currently available media content.

120. The system of claim 118, wherein the video content is a video clip.

121. The system of claim 118, wherein the video content is a video trailer.

122. The system of claim 115, further comprising:

means for displaying media sub-group options associated with the categories media group option in response to the user selecting the categories media group option; and

means for displaying the media indicators in response to the user selecting one of the media sub-group options, wherein the media indicators are associated with the selected media sub-group option.

123. The system of claim 122, further comprising:

means for indicating the number of media indicators that are associated with each of the media sub-group options.

124. The system of claim 122, wherein the media sub-group options comprise a sports sub-group option, a

popular shows sub-group option, a premiers sub-group option, and a group sub-group option.

125. The system of claim 115, further comprising:

means for displaying media indicators in response to the user selecting the preview scan media group option, wherein the media indicators are associated with the preview scan media group option; and

means for displaying in a video window video content corresponding to a selected media indicator in response to the user selecting one of the media indicators associated with the preview scan media group option.

126. The system of claim 109, wherein performing an action comprises obtaining media from a local file server, a remote file server, a pre-recorded videotape, a television station or an audio station.

127. (Canceled)

128. The system of claim 109, wherein each media sub-group option indicates the number of available media indicators that are associated with each media sub-group option.

129. The system of claim 109, wherein at least some of the media sub-group options indicate presently available media by indicating the content, title, or source of the media.

130. (Canceled)

131. The system of claim 109, wherein the media sub-group options are displayed according to user preferences.

132. The system of claim 109, wherein the media sub-group options are displayed according to criteria defined by a remote service.

133. The system of claim 109, wherein the media sub-group options are created dynamically.

134. An interactive media guide system for allowing a user to access media provided by media sources, the system comprising:

- user equipment on which the interactive media guide is at least partially implemented, wherein the user equipment is configured to:

- provide media group options and media sub-group options associated with at least some of the media group options, wherein the media group options and at least some of the media sub-group options indicate media available to the user without indicating the content of the media, without indicating the title of the media, and without indicating the source of the media;

- provide media indicators in response to the user selecting one of the media sub-group options, wherein:

- the media indicators are associated with the selected media sub-group option,

- the media indicators identify media provided by at least one of the media sources, and

the media indicators include a first media indicator for scheduled media and a second media indicator for unscheduled media, wherein the unscheduled media includes media that is not provided at a scheduled time and is available for viewing at a time selected by the user; and

perform an action associated with a media indicator in response to the user selecting the media indicator.

135. The system of claim 134, wherein the action comprises providing media that is identified by the selected media indicator in response to the user selecting the media indicator.

136. The system of claim 134, wherein the user equipment is further configured to indicate the number of presently available media that are associated with a media group option.

137. The system of claim 134, wherein the media group options are defined by the user.

138. The system of claim 137, wherein the user-defined media group options comprise media indicators that meet user-defined criteria.

139. The system of claim 138, wherein the user-defined criteria is a user-defined search.

140. The system of claim 134, wherein the media group options comprise at least one of a recent favorites

media group option, an old favorites media group option, a recommendations media group option, a browsing media group option, a special interest media group option, a categories media group option, or a preview scan media group option.

141. The system of claim 140, wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide media indicators that are editorially recommended in response to the user selecting the recommendations media group option.

142. The system of claim 140, wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide promotional media indicators in response to the user selecting the recommendations media group option.

143. The system of claim 140, wherein media indicators are associated with the browsing media group option and are presented in response to the user selecting the browsing media group option, and wherein the user equipment is further configured display in a video window video content corresponding to the selected media indicator associated with the browsing media group option in response to the user selecting one of the media indicators associated with the browsing media group option.

144. The system of claim 143, wherein the video content is currently available media content.

145. The system of claim 143, wherein the video content is a video clip.

146. The system of claim 143, wherein the video content is a video trailer.

147. The system of claim 140, wherein the user equipment is further configured to display media sub-group options associated with the categories media group option in response to the user selecting the categories media group option, and wherein the user equipment is further configured to display the media indicators in response to the user selecting one of the media sub-group options, wherein the media indicators are associated with the selected media sub-group option.

148. The system of claim 147, wherein the user equipment is further configured to indicate the number of media indicators that are associated with each of the media sub-group options.

149. The system of claim 147, wherein the media sub-group options comprise a sports sub-group option, a popular shows sub-group option, a premiers sub-group option, and a group sub-group option.

150. The system of claim 140, wherein the user equipment is further configured to display media indicators in response to the user selecting the preview scan media group option, wherein the media indicators are associated with the preview scan media group option, and wherein the user equipment is further configured to display in a video window video content corresponding to a selected media indicator in response to the user selecting one of the

media indicators associated with the preview scan media group option.

151. The system of claim 134, wherein performing an action comprises obtaining media from a local file server, a remote file server, a pre-recorded videotape, a television station or an audio station.

152. (Canceled)

153. The system of claim 134, wherein each media sub-group option indicates the number of available media indicators that are associated with each media sub-group option.

154. The system of claim 134, wherein at least some of the media sub-group options indicate presently available media by indicating the content, title, or source of the media.

155. (Canceled)

156. The system of claim 134, wherein the media sub-group options are displayed according to user preferences.

157. The system of claim 134, wherein the media sub-group options are displayed according to criteria defined by a remote service.

158. The system of claim 134, wherein the media sub-group options are created dynamically.

159. A computer readable medium for allowing a user of an interactive media guide to access media provided by media sources, having machine program logic recorded thereon for:

- providing media group options and media sub-group options associated with at least some of the media group options, wherein the media group options and at least some of the media sub-group options indicate media available to the user without indicating the content of the media, without indicating the title of the media, and without indicating the source of the media;

- providing media indicators in response to the user selecting one of the media sub-group options, wherein:

 - the media indicators are associated with the selected media sub-group option,

 - the media indicators identify media provided by at least one of the media sources, and

 - the media indicators include a first media indicator for scheduled media and a second media indicator for unscheduled media, wherein the unscheduled media includes media that is not provided at a scheduled time and is available for viewing at a time selected by the user; and

- performing an action associated with a media indicator in response to the user selecting the media indicator.

160. The computer readable medium of claim 159, wherein the action comprises providing media that is

identified by the selected media indicator in response to the user selecting the media indicator.

161. The computer readable medium of claim 159, further comprising machine program logic recorded thereon for:

indicating the number of presently available media that are associated with a media group option.

162. The computer readable medium of claim 159, wherein the media group options are defined by the user.

163. The computer readable medium of claim 162, wherein the user-defined media group options comprise media indicators that meet user-defined criteria.

164. The computer readable medium of claim 163, wherein the user-defined criteria is a user-defined search.

165. The computer readable medium of claim 159, wherein the media group options comprise at least one of a recent favorites media group option, an old favorites media group option, a recommendations media group option, a browsing media group option, a special interest media group option, a categories media group option, or a preview scan media group option.

166. The computer readable medium of claim 165, further comprising machine program logic recorded thereon for:

providing media indicators that are editorially recommended in response to the user selecting the recommendations media group option.

167. The computer readable medium of claim 165, further comprising machine program logic recorded thereon for:

providing promotional media indicators in response to the user selecting the recommendations media group option.

168. The computer readable medium of claim 165, wherein media indicators are associated with the browsing media group option and are presented in response to the user selecting the browsing media group option, further comprising machine program logic recorded thereon for:

displaying in a video window video content corresponding to the selected media indicator associated with the browsing media group option in response to the user selecting one of the media indicators associated with the browsing media group option.

169. The method of claim 168, wherein the video content is currently available media content.

170. The method of claim 168, wherein the video content is a video clip.

171. The method of claim 168, wherein the video content is a video trailer.

172. The computer readable medium of claim 165, further comprising machine program logic recorded thereon for:

displaying media sub-group options associated with the categories media group option in response to the user selecting the categories media group option; and

displaying the media indicators in response to the user selecting one of the media sub-group options, wherein the media indicators are associated with the selected media sub-group option.

173. The computer readable medium of claim 172, further comprising indicating the number of media indicators that are associated with each of the media sub-group options.

174. The computer readable medium of claim 172, wherein the media sub-group options comprise a sports sub-group option, a popular shows sub-group option, a premiers sub-group option, and a group sub-group option.

175. The computer readable medium of claim 165, further comprising machine program logic recorded thereon for:

displaying media indicators in response to the user selecting the preview scan media group option, wherein the media indicators are associated with the preview scan media group option; and

displaying in a video window video content corresponding to a selected media indicator in response to

the user selecting one of the media indicators associated with the preview scan media group option.

176. The computer readable medium of claim 159, wherein performing an action comprises obtaining media from a local file server, a remote file server, a pre-recorded videotape, a television station or an audio station.

177. (Canceled)

178. The computer readable medium of claim 159, wherein each media sub-group option indicates the number of available media indicators that are associated with each media sub-group option.

179. The computer readable medium of claim 159, wherein at least some of the media sub-group options indicate presently available media by indicating the content, title, or source of the media.

180. (Canceled)

181. The computer readable medium of claim 159, wherein the media sub-group options are displayed according to user preferences.

182. The computer readable medium of claim 159, wherein the media sub-group options are displayed according to criteria defined by a remote service.

183. The computer readable medium of claim 159, wherein the media sub-group options are created dynamically.

Evidence Appendices

None.

Related Proceedings Appendix

None.